

Cattle Co. Today, the mother of four children and grandmother of five granddaughters, she says, "The city girl has learned that it takes hard work, knowledge, skill, and cooperation from mother nature to operate a cattle ranch today."

Jackie understands America must count on rural areas, not dismiss them. Statistics confirm the importance of rural settings. Agriculture is still America's number one employer providing more jobs and paychecks than any other sector of the economy.

Jackie recognizes that sound policy to offset the effects of Colorado's population boom should focus on Colorado's best stewards of the land—its farmers and ranchers. Besides supplying safe and inexpensive food for our tables, farmers and ranchers provide valuable open space and wildlife habitat.

In fact, most of this nation's wildlife survives and thrives on private lands. To preserve these valuable assets we need to protect water and property rights and make it easier for farmers and ranchers to pass their land on to succeeding generations.

While certain antiproperty rights groups fight for more regulation and government intervention, the future of agriculture depends on ag-

gressive advocates like Jackie. Preserving farms and ranches is one effective way to mitigate Colorado's booming urbanization.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I agree with Jackie who is concerned for this nation's moral foundation. A nation launched by planters and preachers, America's founding strength was mustered and sustained by the moral character of rural people. Their values of hard work, honesty, integrity, self-reliance, and faith in God thrive in abundance today in the character of Jackie Waitley.

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TRIBUTE TO DICK SPROD

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 28, 1999*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to recognize a man who has recently passed away. Mr. Dick Sprod died August 30th. He was born in Meeker, Colorado, in 1917 and lived there throughout most of his life. He graduated from the Meeker Public School system in 1935. He was drafted into

the United States Army Air Corps six years later, in 1941, where he served for four years. He earned the rank of Master Sergeant as well as a bronze star during his time with the service.

He married Angela Nassau in Grand Junction in 1946. Together they made their home on his family homestead and raised their family while ranching. They had three children and have since been blessed with six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

During his time as a rancher Mr. Sprod was an active member of the St. James' Episcopal Church, a member of the Meeker Snowmobile Club, the Rio Blanco Cattleman's Association, and also served for 21 years on the White River Electric Board. In addition to all of his responsibilities, Dick loved to travel and participated in the athletic pursuits of all of his children and grandchildren. Most recently, he was an avid supporter of his granddaughter's involvement in basketball at Mesa State College.

Dick Sprod will be greatly missed by all who knew him. He was an important part of the ranching community and his community of Meeker as a whole. He will be remembered for many years to come.